With regard to the remedy that you suggest, *viz.*, the opening of sub-jails, as was stated in this Assembly last year, the matter has been under the consideration of the Commissioner of Police. He has now sent up a recommendation, and Government hope to deal with it ere long.

I must strongly deprecate one statement in your representation about the Police, and that is that the Commissioner of Police, when such a matter is referred to him, will only consider the interests of the Police. Well, the interests of the Police are really in no way different from the interests of the people, though there may be bad Police officers whose interests are not identical with the interests of the people. In the case of the Commissioner of Police, the result of the reference itself shows that your fears are quite groundless.

17. Appointment of an Honorary Magistrate at Mundakayam under the Rubber Thefts Prevention Regulation, IX of 1087.

MR. COGHLAN (*Mundakayam Planters' Association*) said that the question had already been considered by the Government. They had felt that the appointment of an Honorary Magistrate in the Mundakayam District with powers to issue warrants of arrest and search warrants against offenders under the Rubber Thefts Prevention Regulation would facilitate the work of the Police and operate as an additional safeguard for the prompt prevention of such offences. The Government therefore decided to appoint one in consultation with the Commissioner, Devicolam, and the Mundakayam Planters' Association and even names were suggested for purposes of selection. It would appear that subsequently it was found that there were other obstacles which had to be overcome before the appointment could be effected and the matter was under the consideration of the Law Officers. The member enquired what further progress had been made in the affair and when the final decision might be expected. He pointed out that, with a possible early recovery of the rubber market, the immediate appointment of an Honorary Magistrate would be beneficial to the interests of both the European and the Indian planters.

DEWAN'S REPLY :—Mr. Coghlan, I am glad that I am able to give you a definite reply. You want to know what progress has been made in the steps which Government said they were taking in regard to the appointment of an Honorary Magistrate at Mundakayam. It has now been found that there is no way of surmounting the obstacles by the appointment of an Honorary Magistrate. The Law Officers are of the opinion that such a person will not be able to take action under the Rubber Thefts Prevention Regulation. Government are therefore contemplating the appointment of a Bench of Magistrates, which Bench will be able to take action under that Regulation and do what you expect an Honorary Magistrate to do under the Regulation.

18. Exemption from stamp duty of applications for return of account books produced in courts by merchants and the need for obtaining acknowledgments of receipt on the copies.

MR. JACOB HUSSAIN SAIT (*Trading Classes, Kayankulam*) said that the account books produced by merchants in courts were not

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